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them, that determine public opinion about the Bible, and the kind of use which is made of the Bible. Let everyone therefore who feels moved to learn about the New Testament acquaint himself with such books as the present one.

C. W. V.

The Song of Solomon, with Introduction and Notes. By PROFESSOR ANDREW HARPER, D.D. [The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.] New York: The Macmillan Co., 1902. Pp. xi + 96. \$0.50.

Following the lead of Budde, recent scholarship has for the most part regarded the Song of Songs as a collection of wedding songs having no inner unity. The present commentary adheres to the view formerly most common, viz., that we have here a drama, or rather a series of dramatic lyrics, intended to teach the purity and nobility of true love. The message of the poem is thus primarily ethical. Dr. Harper, however, seems inclined to add to this a spiritual content to be derived through an allegorical interpretation, the love portrayed being that between God and the church. The arguments against Budde's interpretation are fully and strongly presented, Appendix II being devoted especially to that subject. In Appendix I is given the author's arrangement of the song in thirteen dramatic lyrics with stage-directions attached.

The introduction to the commentary is full, discussing among other things the question of the unity of the book, its dramatic character, its age, authorship, and purpose, and the various interpretations proposed. The commentary proper furnishes just the help that the ordinary student needs, and the explanations are for the most part sane and instructive. But in many cases it appears as though the author's view of the meaning and purpose of the poem had caused him to minimize its Oriental sensuousness to an unwarrantable degree. On the whole this commentary is to be heartily recommended to the non-specialist as the best interpretation of the Song of Songs accessible in English, and as worthy to stand beside the best volumes of the excellent series to which it belongs.

JOHN M. P. SMITH.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.